

Protection to Gopinath Temple, Gopeshwar (Chamoli)

†1846. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have identified a number of temples of hilly areas (Uttanchal) of U.P. from archaeological view point;

(b) whether Government are formulating any schemes to protect the Gopinath temple situated at Gopeshwar, the district headquarters of Chamoli, having cracks on its walls and being fully ignored and other remnants historical importance;

(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act of 1958, the Archaeological Survey of India has declared 42 monuments, which also include 18 temples, as of national importance in the hilly areas of U.P.

(b) to (d) The Gopinath Temple, Gopeshwar in Chamoli District of U.P. is a centrally protected monument. The structural conservation of this temple has been included in the conservation programme for the current year.

Promotion of Tourism in Gujarat

1847. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is ample tourism potential in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether Government would pay more concentration on developing tourism industry;

(c) whether there is ambitious plan in Gujarat to promote tourism; and

(d) if so, the details of assistance proposed to be provided to develop tourism?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The State Government has declared tourism as an industry and the incentive policy for tourism related projects in the State is implemented by the State.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.